

~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY El Salvador

SUBJECT Plot by Supporters of Col. Osmin Aguirre
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PLACE
ACQUIRED

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1. Rene Rivera, nephew of the imprisoned Salvadoran ex-president Osmin Aguirre, and a perennial plotter in his behalf, expressed his intention on 9 April 1949 to provoke an immediate coup to free Aguirre and overthrow the governing junta.
2. Rivera did not explain how the coup would be activated except to say that a key regiment would be headquarters of the movement and no other commanders would know in advance the time picked for zero hour. This unnamed regiment will be expected to refuse support of the junta when such support is commended.
3. El Zapote, the First Artillery Regiment, which possesses much of the arms and ammunition in the country and which is the key point in most revolutions, is no longer being discounted as supporting the regime.* Dr. Gustavo Acevedo was authorized on 13 April to offer Lt. Col. Miguel A. Parada, Director of Police, \$20,000 and an additional \$20,000 for his brother, Lt. Col. Adan Parada, Commander of El Zapote, in return for their support. Source stated that should both these men support the movement, the coup would probably come off immediately. In the event Miguel Parada would refuse the bribe, the same amount of money would be offered to Major Arnoldo Rodezno, Assistant Director of Police.
4. Captain Francisco Ponce, Chief of the Salvadoran Air Force, expressed his desire to cooperate in the coup to one Ramon Penado on 19 April. Ponce has been assigned the mission of attacking the First Infantry Regiment should this unit fail to support the Aguirre movement.**
5. Ponce and his second in command, Major Esquivel, have agreed to accept 110,000 colones between them, with Ponce receiving 60,000. Source has not yet been aware of any money changing hands, except for small bribes of 300 to 500 colones per man among some of the National Guard sergeants.
6. Rene Rivera has instructed Ramon Penado to make arrangements for the safe conduct of former President Castaneda to the border as soon as possible after the coup takes place.***

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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 Comment. This may shed some light on the source of at least part of the funds being used. The most logical sources of funds would be the disgruntled capitalists and political opponents of the present regime.

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